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IN THE CLAIMS:

Please find below a listing of all of the pending claims. The statuses of the claims are set forth in parentheses.

1. (Currently amended) A network usage analyzer, comprising:

a network query client residing in a first network; and

a network query server residing in a second network protected by a firewall, wherein said network query client is configured to send authenticating information to the network query server, to send a query to the network query server related to how resources in the second network are used, wherein the network query server is configured to send authentication approval information to the network query client, to collect data related to how resources in the second network are used, and to send collected data to the network query client[the network query server operable to collect usage data associated with the second network and respond to at least one query regarding usage of the second network from the network query client], and wherein at least one query is formatted to enable transmission using Hypertext Transfer Protocol (HTTP) as the underlying transport mechanism.

2. (Original) The network usage analyzer, as set forth in claim 1, wherein the network query client and network query server are operable to communicate using a common protocol.

2

PATENT

3. (Original)   The network usage analyzer, as set forth in claim 1, wherein the network query client and network query server are operable to communicate using Simple Object Access Protocol.

Claims 4 and 5. (Canceled).

6. (Currently amended) A method for accessing information of resource usage in a first network, comprising:

establishing a communication channel between a network query client residing in a second network and a network query server residing in the first network protected by a firewall;

sending, by the network query client, authenticating information to the network query server;

sending, by the network query server, authentication approval information to the network query client;

sending, by the network query client, at least one network usage query;

receiving, by the network query server, at least one network usage query from the network query client, the at least one query formatted to enable transmission using Hypertext Transfer Protocol (HTTP') as the underlying transport mechanism;

collecting, by the network query server, information requested by the network usage query; and

sending, by the network query server, the collected information to the network query client.

3

7. (Original) The method, as set forth in claim 6, wherein establishing a communication channel comprises establishing a communication channel without reconfiguring the firewall.

8. (Original) The method, as set forth in claim 6, wherein establishing a communication channel comprises establishing a communication channel using Simple Object Access Protocol.

Claim 9. (Canceled).

10. (Original) The method, as set forth in claim 6, further comprising:

periodically receiving, by the network query server, authenticating information from the network query client; and

sending, by the network query server, authentication approval to the network query client in response to the periodically received authenticating information.

11. (Original) The method, as set forth in claim 6, further comprising receiving, by the network query server, network configuration information.

12. (Currently amended) A method for accessing information of resource usage in a first network, comprising:

establishing a communication channel between a network query client residing in a second network and a network query server residing in the first network protected by a

4

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firewall;

sending, by the network query client, authenticating information to the network query

server;

sending, by the network query server, authentication approval information to the

network query client;

sending, by the network query client, at least one network usage network

configuration query to the network query server, the at least one query formatted to enable

transmission using Hypertext Transfer Protocol (HTTP') as the underlying transport

mechanism; [[and]]

collecting, by the network query server, network configuration information requested

by the network usage query;

receiving, by the network query client, information related to the network usage

configuration query collected by the network query server; and

sending, by the network query server, the collected network configuration

information to the network query client.

13. (Original) The method, as set forth in claim 12, wherein establishing a

communication channel comprises establishing a communication channel using Simple

Object Access Protocol.

Claims 14 and 15. (Canceled).

5

PATENT

16. (Previously Presented) The network usage analyzer, as set forth in claim 1, wherein the network query client transforms the usage data into business information.

17. (Previously Presented) The network usage analyzer, as set forth in claim 1, wherein the usage data comprises a metric measuring network usage levels based on at least one of a geographical region, a time of day, a particular user, and a type of service plan.

18. (Previously Presented) The method, as set forth in claim 6, further comprising, sending, by the network query server, the collected information to the network query client in order to transform the collected information into business information.

19. (Previously Presented) The method, as set forth in claim 12, further comprising transforming the collected information into business information.

20. (Previously presented) The method, as set forth in claim 12, further comprising sending, by the network query client, at least one network usage query to the network query service, the at least one network usage query requesting a metric measuring network usage levels based on at least one of a geographical region, a time of day, a particular user, and a type of service plan.

6